

***SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 9, 2003***

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners and Tippecanoe County Council met in a special joint meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2003 at 10:00 A.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Connie Basham, Vice President Ronald L. Fruitt, Jeffrey Kessler, Betty J. Michael, and Jeffrey A. Kemper. Commissioners present were: President KD Benson, Vice President Ruth E. Shedd, and Member John L. Knochel. Others present were Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, County Attorney David W. Luhman, Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Weston, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Councilmembers David S. Byers and Kathy Vernon were absent.)

Greg Guerrettaz, President of Financial Solutions and Tippecanoe County's Financial Consultant, was also present.

President Benson called the County Commissioners' meeting to order.

President Basham called the County Council's meeting to order.

All were asked to join in a moment of silence to honor the memory of Governor Frank O'Bannon.

SUPERIOR COURT VI: Judge Michael Morrissey

Judge Morrissey asked to speak to the Council at this time since he will be unable to attend the Council's meeting later today. He said there is a balance of \$361 in Jury Expense but he thinks he will need an additional \$10,000 to pay jurors for the seven to ten trials he estimates will be held before the end of the year. He said he is requesting \$8,000 today and thinks there is a possibility he will get a \$2,500 transfer from Superior Court V. Judge Morrissey stressed the importance of keeping the court meeting but said he will live with what the Council can appropriate today and will not return again this year for additional funds.

OPERATING PLAN DISCUSSION: Greg Guerrettaz

- ♦ Mr. Guerrettaz said the County's Operating Plan is an example of self-sufficiency.
- ♦ Councilmember Fruitt suggested rewarding good ideas submitted by employees with a bonus. Mr. Guerrettaz agreed employees are a good source for suggestions. In some places, he said employees are suggesting ways to enhance their positions to keep their jobs. Mr. Guerrettaz suggested creating indexes to determine if the number of employees in departments is out of line.
- ♦ Councilmember Kessler observed if the County has to borrow from another fund (i.e. Cum Bridge) to pay salaries, it may be forced to decide on positions. He said not filling vacant positions due to retirement might be a way to eliminate positions.
- ♦ Auditor Plantenga pointed out his projected assumptions for revenue from the Cum Bridge Fund keep the tax rate at 3½ cents but wean dependence on Cum Bridge interest to \$0 by 2007. Councilmember Kessler asked how the County can achieve less reliance on the Cum Bridge Fund. Auditor Plantenga said State changes to the Homestead calculation formula will generate additional COIT distribution to the General Fund. Mr. Guerrettaz interjected that only eight (8) counties use COIT Funds to fund the Homestead Credit. Auditor Plantenga explained that the Income Tax Council voted to fund a percentage of the Homestead Credit from COIT Funds to lower the Property Tax.
- ♦ Auditor Plantenga said the Operating Plan projects no new employees for four (4) years. Attorney Luhman wondered how the Council can justify no new employees when the Auditor projects a \$4.3 million cash balance for 2007. Councilmember Kemper said if the County wants to try to operate more efficiently it may have to have fewer employees. Councilmember Michael thought there should be an expiration on the hiring

freeze.

2004 CAPITAL PLAN

	Requested for 2004	Appropriated for 2004
Cum Cap Funds	\$840,317	\$695,771
EDIT Funds	\$3,724,100	\$3,676,300

STATUS of JUVENILE JUSTICE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Councilmember Basham said they are still in the interview process. Commissioner Shedd estimated that will continue for another couple of months. She said \$500,000 for the study was set aside for 2004.

WHEEL TAX

Mr. Guerrettaz said Hendricks County passed a Wheel Tax to use in their Revolving Fund. He said they sold it to the taxpayers as a tax for roads only.

NEW YORK TRIP

Purpose: To update the bond rating agencies.

Funding: Mr. Guerrettaz said this is an economic development tool. Councilmember Kessler suggested paying from the 2004 EDIT Budget. Attorney Luhman said 2003 EDIT Funds can be appropriated to pay for the trip this year.

When: Mr. Guerrettaz suggested late October, early November or January or February.

Attendees: Commissioner Knochel thought the President of the Commissioners, at least two Councilmembers, Kessler and Fruitt, and the Auditor should go. Commissioner Shedd said she thinks the Attorney should also go. Councilmember Kessler said he is unsure if he can go but he is willing to pay his own way.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to send Commissioner Benson, Councilmembers Kessler, Kemper, and Fruitt, Auditor Plantenga, and Attorney Luhman, seconded by Commissioner Shedd; motion carried.

Possible Dates: November 12, 13, 14, & 15 or 15, 16, 17, & 18
December 10, 11, 12, & 13

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Shedd moved to adjourn the Commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Knochel; motion carried.

RECESSED

- President Basham recessed the Council at 12:10 P.M. until 2:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE**

KD Benson, President

Ruth E. Shedd, Vice President

John L. Knochel, Member

ATTEST:

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor